

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice opposing the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers would not provide any additional benefits to consumers, like me.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger anti-competitive force in the market place and cost consumers more money. EchoStar proved that to me today. I have always received local broadcast of the Washington, D.C. stations here in California. However, without notice, these stations were removed from my viewing lineup. I spent 8 hours today with EchoStar's technical support trying to recover the stations but not one of them knew that I would never be able to receive the stations because of a recent change in their satellite brocasting system. Only when I called the retailer did I find out about the new policy. EchoStar wanted to send someone out to look at the system for \$149.00. My local retailer would charge over \$100. Since I can no longer receive the Washington, D.C. stations, I switched to Direct TV for only \$49. Even though I can't receive Washington stations on Direct TV, it still represents a savings to me that might not have been there if EchoStar and Direct were a merged company. Plus I would still be out the money for the service call if they had come out to fix a problem that couldn't be fixed!

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to oppose this merger.

Sincerely,

Dennis Large  
Box 110417  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315